

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE WEST VALLEY
MUNICIPAL REGIONAL VETERANS
COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2022-158

The Presiding Judges in several West Valley municipal courts seek to establish a regional Veterans Court pursuant to A.R.S. § 22-601, in order to maximize available resources and ensure the participation of a Veterans Justice Outreach specialist (VJO) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.). Each participating court will continue to establish which of its cases will be referred to the Veterans Court docket and each court will continue to maintain its cases in its case management system. However, the Veterans Court docket will be held at a centralized location to share resources and lessen the impact to the VJO from having to travel to multiple court locations throughout the valley. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED establishing a Regional Veterans Treatment Court for the municipal courts in the West Valley of Maricopa County, referred to as the West Valley Municipal Regional Veterans Treatment Court (WVRVC). The WVRVC may include Glendale Municipal Court, Avondale Municipal Court, Buckeye Municipal Court, El Mirage Municipal Court, Goodyear Municipal Court, Litchfield Park Municipal Court, Peoria Municipal Court, Surprise Municipal Court, Tolleson Municipal Court, Youngtown Municipal Court and Wickenburg Municipal Court. Any additional municipal court in Maricopa County can join the WVRVC upon the written approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Maricopa County. Any participating court can withdraw from the Regional Veterans Court by submitting a written notification of withdrawal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED as follows:

1. The Court adopts the referral criteria of each participating municipal court and the Chief Prosecuting Attorneys, after consultation with the respective Public Defenders. Based on the established criteria, each participating court shall determine which cases are appropriate for referral to the WVRVC.
2. Any judicial officer of a participating municipal court may refer a case to the WVRVC. The originating court shall maintain jurisdiction over the case. Participation in WVRVC is voluntary, and as such, the referring judicial officer shall determine if the defendant wishes to have the case transferred to the WVRVC. The court shall notify the prosecutor of the transfer.
3. The WVRVC shall hold dockets in a location agreed upon by the Presiding Judges of participating municipal courts. Participating courts will be responsible for the administration of each case referred from their court to the

WVRVC. Any judicial officer qualified to hear cases in any of the participating municipal courts shall have the authority to adjudicate a case referred to the Regional Veterans Court.

4. The Presiding Judges of the participating courts shall coordinate and establish a consistent court calendar for the Regional Veterans Court to be in session. The Presiding Judges shall also establish a consistent schedule for the WVRVC cases to be staffed prior to each court session.
5. Court administration for participating courts shall establish the case transfer process; determine how cases will be handled in the case management system, and how fines, fees, surcharges and any other costs will be allocated. The referring court shall be the custodian of records for its cases at the WVRVC.
6. Prosecutors for participating municipalities will prosecute their respective municipality's cases, unless such authority is delegated, in writing, to another agency among the participating municipalities.
7. The WVRVC Judge will coordinate with the V.A. for the provision of treatment services to eligible veterans in the Regional Veterans Court. The Regional Veterans Court Judge may also utilize local, community-based treatment programs, social services and veterans service organizations that further the purpose of the WVRVC.
8. In the event a defendant is removed from the WVRVC for failing to make satisfactory progress in court-ordered treatment, or for any other lawful reason, the WVRVC Judge shall transfer the case back to the referring court for adjudication.
9. The Presiding Judges, in coordination with the respective City Prosecutors, and after consultation with the respective Public Defenders, shall develop and implement any other standard operating procedures consistent with this order.

DATED this 8th day of December 2022.

/s/ Joseph C. Welty
Hon. Joseph C. Welty
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Municipal Court Presiding Judges in Maricopa
County Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Bob James, Deputy Court Administrator
Karen Sadler, Limited Jurisdiction Court Liaison